

MARVEL

#3

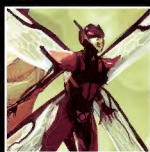
MARK WAID
MIKE DEL MUNDO

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
THE AVENGERS

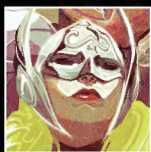


And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE AVENGERS



WASP
Nadia Pym



THOR
Jane Foster



CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sam Wilson



VISION



SPIDER-MAN
Peter Parker



HERCULES

The Vision traveled through time to abduct the infamous villain Kang as a baby, hoping that Kang would never grow up to terrorize Vision and his fellow Avengers. The resulting paradox created dozens of vengeful Kangs, who went back in time and killed the Avengers as children.

A rogue version of Kang protected the Avengers long enough for Hercules to find an amulet that would sustain the paradox of their existence, but just as the Avengers returned, the evil Kangs found their child self being sheltered by the mysterious Priests of Pama. As the battle turned ugly, Wasp was forced to don Kang's time armor and flee with the baby through the timestream!

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The Avengers created by Stan Lee & Jack Kirby

THE TIMESTREAM.

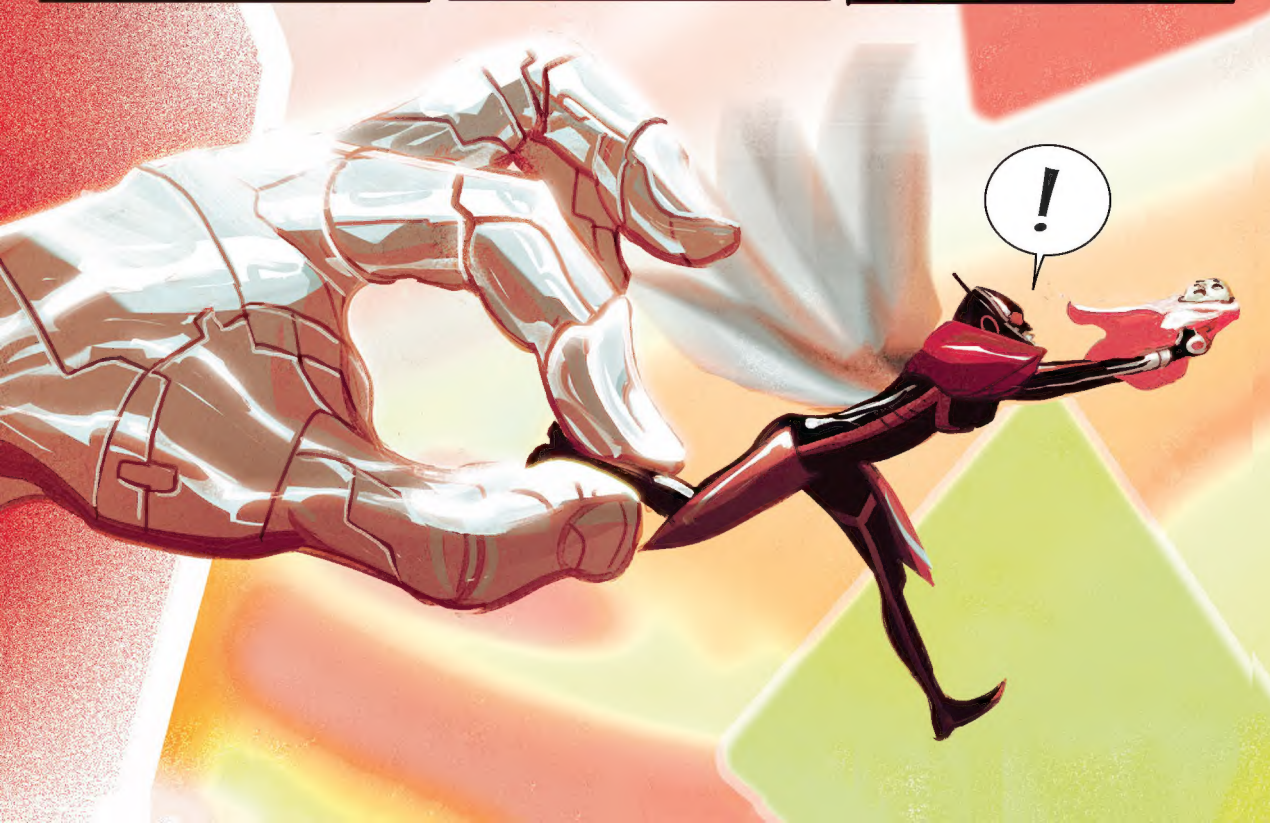
HUSH,
LITTLE
ONE.

WE'LL GET
YOU BACK TO
WHERE--

--TO
WHEN--

--YOU
BELONG.







I
FLEW TOO
CLOSE.

I
FLEW TOO
CLOSE!

DO NOT
FEAR, BABY
KANG--



--I WILL
FIGHT ALL OF HISTORY
IF IT WILL ALLOW US
TO CONTINUE.



SINCE KANG
HAD US ALL KILLED AS
INFANTS, ONLY KANG'S
CIRCUITRY AND THE MAGIC
OF HERCULES' NECKLACE
ARE SAVING ANY OF US
FROM VANISHING.



I CAN UNDO
THAT PARADOX. SO
MUCH DEPENDS ON MY
RETURNING YOU TO
YOUR POINT OF
ORIGIN--

"--INCLUDING THE
LIVES OF THE
AVENGERS!"

**EARTH.
NOW.**



AH, YES.
THE FISTS OF
HERCULES AND
THOR'S MIGHTY URU
HAMMER.

ACCORDING
TO LEGEND, ONLY
ONE OF "WORTH"
MAY LIFT
MJOLNIR--



--BUT IT CAN
CERTAINLY BE
FROZEN IN TIME
MID-FLIGHT.





YOU
DISAPPOINT
ME, VISION.
SUCH A CRUDE
ATTACK.

SOMEWHAT
LIKE YOU, I CAN
SHIFT MY MOLECULES
OUT OF PHASE, EXISTING
BETWEEN THE TICKS
OF A SECOND.
UNTOUCHABLE--



--AND YET
CAPABLE OF GREAT
DESTRUCTION--

--SUCH AS
REDUCING YOU
TO DUST.



EYAAAAGH!

YOU--YOU'RE
UNAFFECTED--?
YOU SHOULD
HAVE--



AN
EXCELLENT
QUERY...

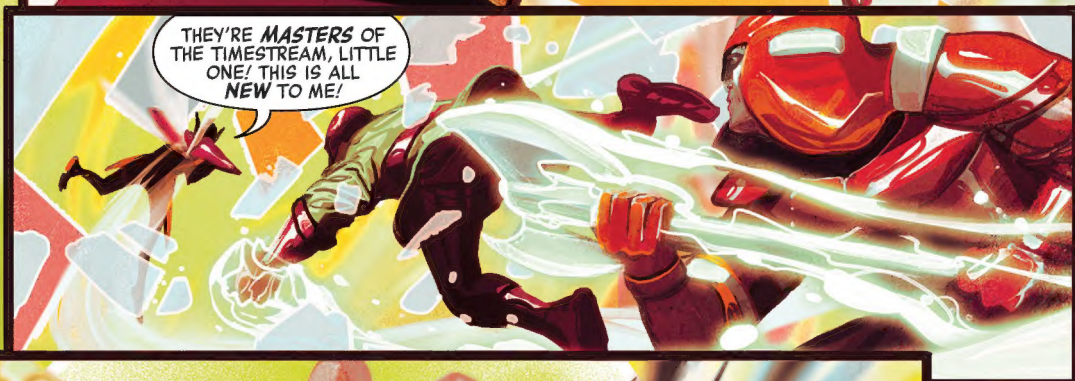
HOW...
HOW IS THAT
POSSIBLE...?

I'M
BEGINNING
TO THINK WE'RE
OUTGUNNED
HERE!



MAYBE
YOU SHOULD
HAVE BROUGHT
YOUR BIRD!







?



WHO--?

WE HAVE
REMEMBERED
YOU FOR FIVE
HUNDRED YEARS,
WASP.

THIS IS THE
26TH CENTURY. WE
ARE THE REMAINING
PRIESTS OF PAMA--
AND WE CAN
HELP YOU.



THE
PRIESTS
OF--?

YOU WERE
A LOT MORE...
LOW-TECH BACK
IN MY DAY. WHAT
HAPPENED?

"THE CHILD
HAPPENED."

"WE DIDN'T **REALIZE** IT
AT THE **TIME**...BUT THE
VERY PARADOX OF ITS
EXISTENCE AMONG US...
AN INFANT RIPPED FROM
ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN
THE **TIMESTREAM**..."



"...GRADUALLY BESTOWED UPON *US* A RANGE OF MINOR CHRONAL POWERS.

"OVER THE CENTURIES, THEY HAVE *CHANGED* US, AND OUR *CHILDREN*, AND *THEIR* CHILDREN.



"NOW *TIME ITSELF* IS OUR *SUSTENANCE*. CAREFULLY, SURGICALLY, WE EXTRACT MEANINGLESS SECONDS, INCONSEQUENTIAL MINUTES. IT IS WHAT *SUSTAINS* US."



SO YOU'RE BASICALLY KANGS, TOO.

HARDLY. KANG'S DESIRE WAS ALWAYS TO **DEMOLISH** TIME, CREATING **PARADOXES** UPON WHICH TO FEED.

OUR SWORN MISSION IS TO **PROTECT** HISTORY FROM CONTRADICTIONS IN TIME. COME. LET US SHOW YOU.

THIS IS THE **ETERNAL FLAME OF PAMA.**

THE CENTERPIECE OF OUR CRUSADE.

IT'S FUELED BY THE **IMPOSSIBLE.**

IT'S FUELED BY **TIME PARADOXES.**



WAIT.

WE WILL
WIN...

...BUT FOR
EXPEDIENCY'S
SAKE, PERHAPS SOME
REINFORCEMENTS...?

SEARCHING
THROUGH HISTORY
EVEN *NOW* FOR
SOLDIERS.

HERE'S
SOMETHING
INTERESTING.
PERHAPS A
GLIMPSE BEHIND
THE DOOR--

HERE LIES
AVENGER X
BRAVEST OF US ALL

...
...MOONS
OF TITAN...
HOW DID I
NEVER KNOW
ABOUT...

SP-TANG

CRIMINY PETE/
CONQUERORS
TODAY AND THEIR
SMARTPHONES,
RIGHT?



IS EVERYTHING A JOKE TO YOU?

WE ALL HAVE OUR COPING MECHANISMS. LOOK OUT--!



I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU, CAP. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN KEEP FIGHTING. IT'S LIKE TRYING TO PUSH THE TIDE BACK WITH A BROOM.

MAN, STEVE ROGERS USED TO GIVE THE BEST MOTIVATIONAL SPEECHES...

SUCK IT UP.



BY NO RIGHTS SHOULD ANY OF YOU EVEN BE ALIVE WITH YOUR INFANT SELVES ERASED! FIGHT LIKE AN OLYMPIAN!

BETTER YET, LIKE A NORSEWOMAN!

SURELY THEY ARE WEAKENING--



HARDLY.



GIVE US THE CHILD. THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU LEFT YOUR TEAMMATES IN HOPES OF SAVING THEM--



--BUT YOU'LL NEVER SURVIVE THE TIMESTREAM ALONE.



LOOK, THROUGH THE FLAMES OF TIME, YOUR ALLIES ARE DEPENDING ON YOU TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

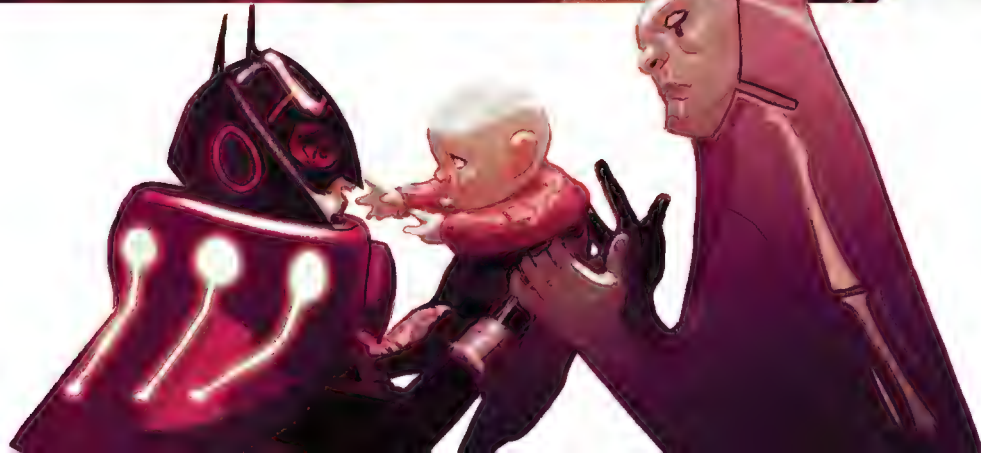
THEIR VERY LIVES ARE IN YOUR HANDS.

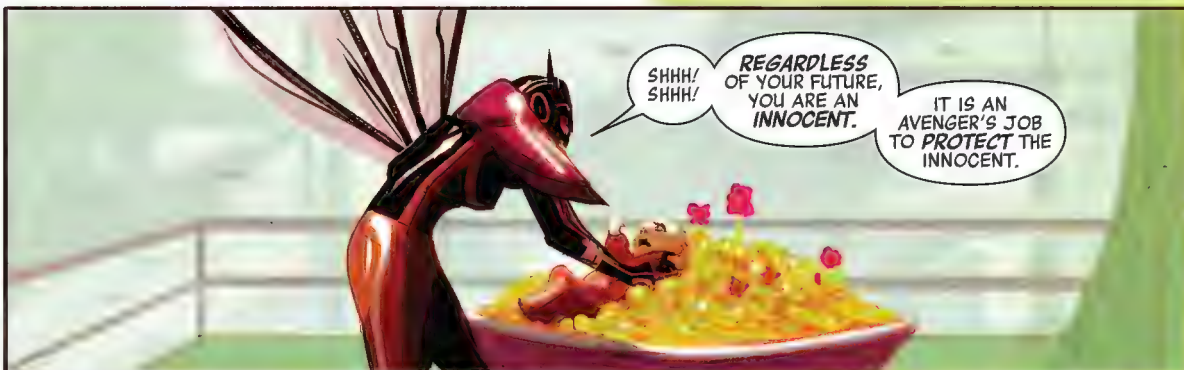


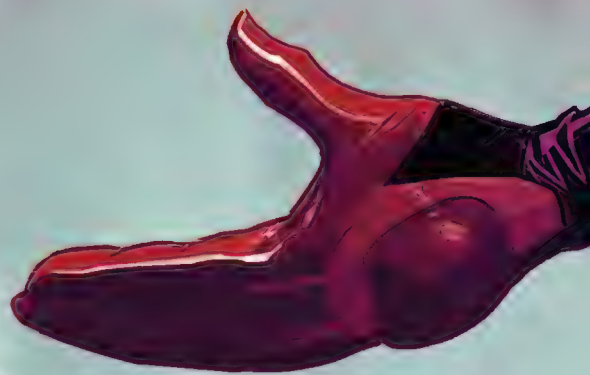
LET US SURRENDER THE CHILD--THIS LIVING PARADOX--TO THE FLAME, AND ALL THIS COMES TO AN END.

KANG WILL NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN.

AND IT ALL GOES AWAY.









WHAT
WAS SHE
TRYING TO
DO?

WHAT WAS SHE
THINKING?

I WAS
THINKING...



...ABOUT
HOW YOUR
MAGIC FLAME
CORRECTS TIME
PARADOXES.

STEPPING
THROUGH IT
UNDID THE INFANTICIDE
KANG SET UPON
US!



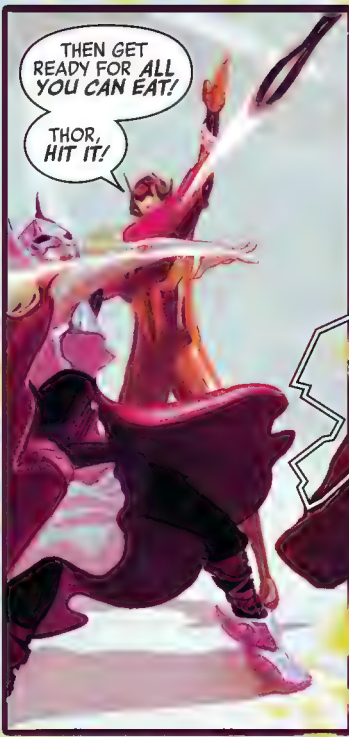
SPIDER,
GET THE
BABY!

IF I HAD A
NICKEL...



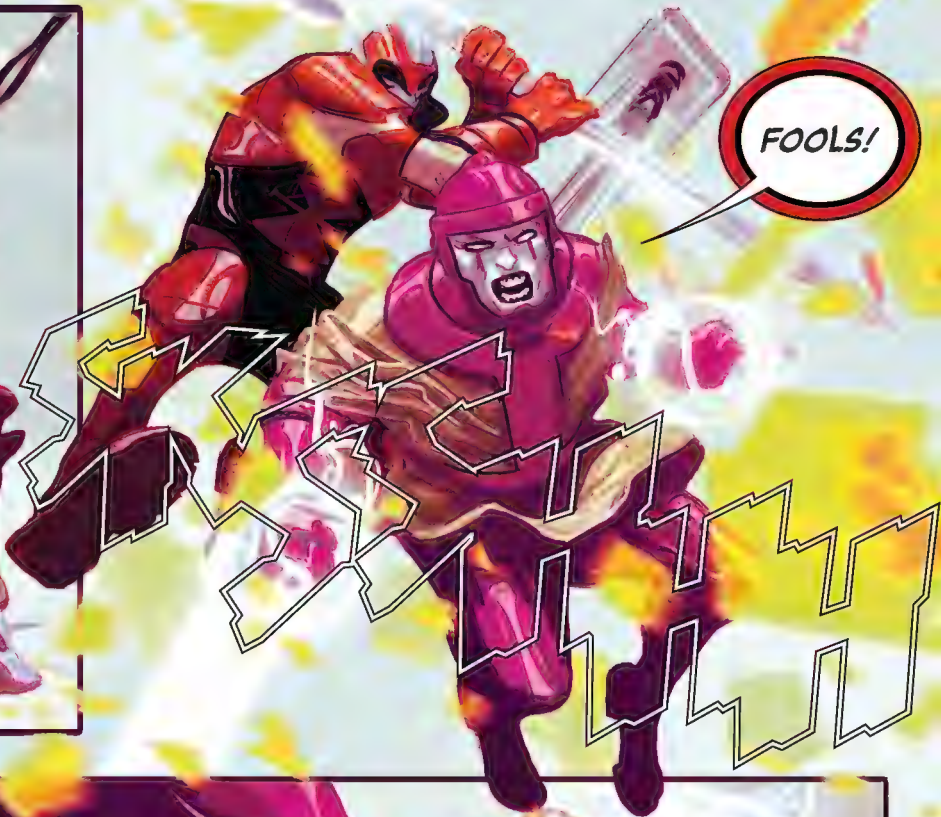
YOU! YOU
SAID YOUR PEOPLE
LITERALLY FEED
ON TIME?

Y-YES--!



THEN GET
READY FOR ALL
YOU CAN EAT!

THOR,
HIT IT!



FOOLS!



WE SNAPPED
YOU LIKE *TWIGS*
IN YOUR *OWN* TIME!
NOW YOU WON'T EVEN
DIE WITH DIGNITY IN
YOUR OWN *ERA*--



WHAT--

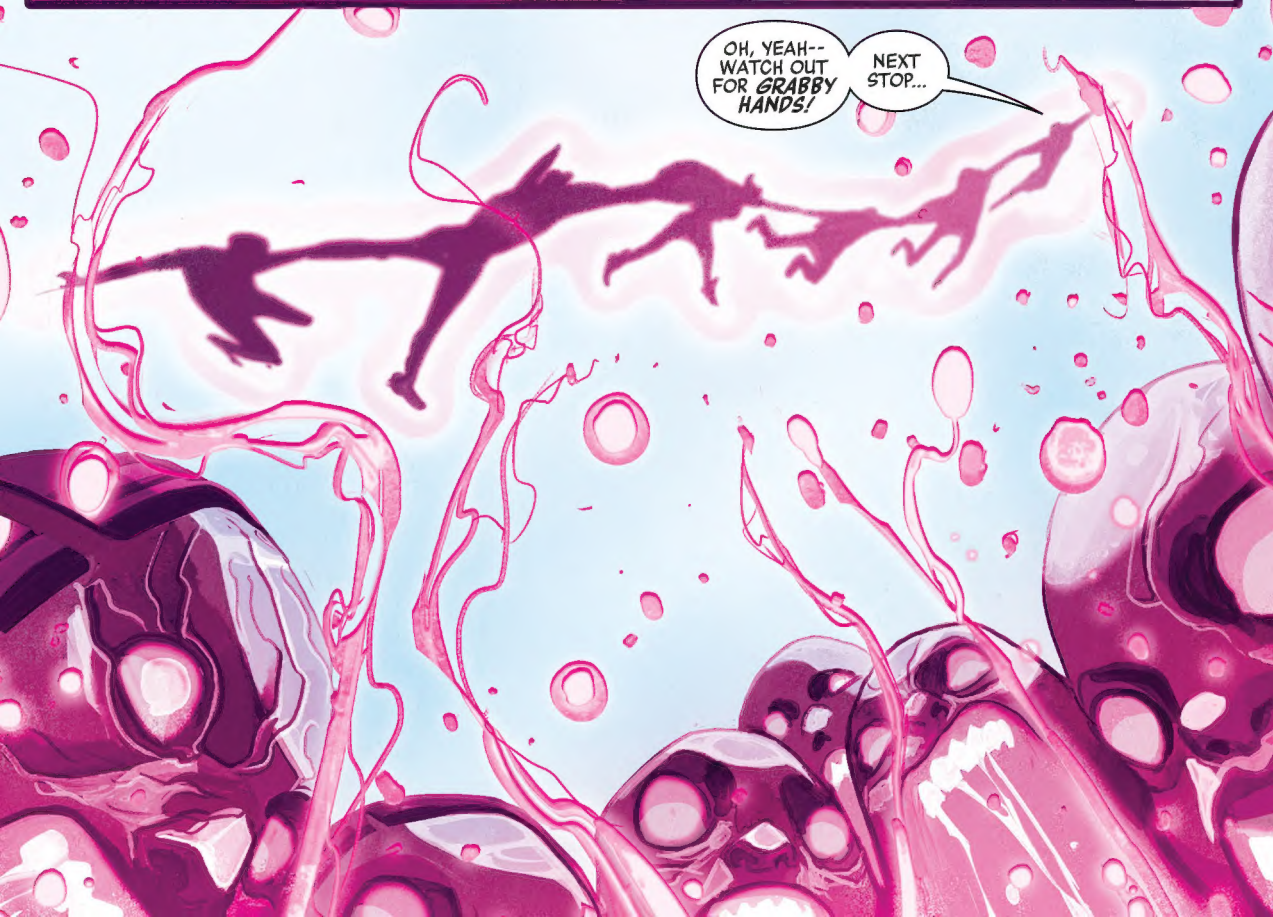
--WHAT'S
HAPPENING--?

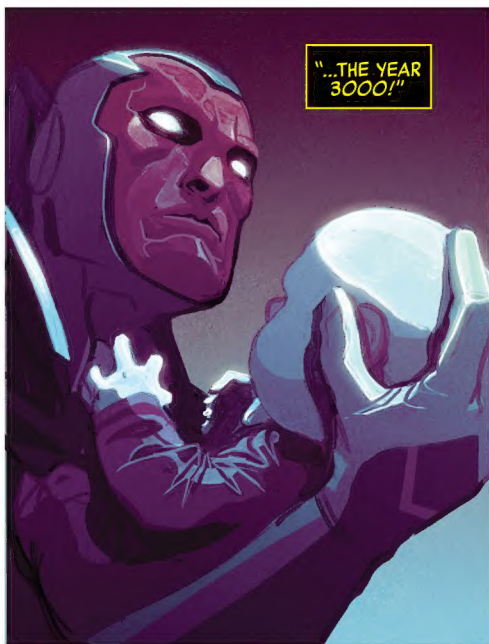


I--I FEEL
WEAK--

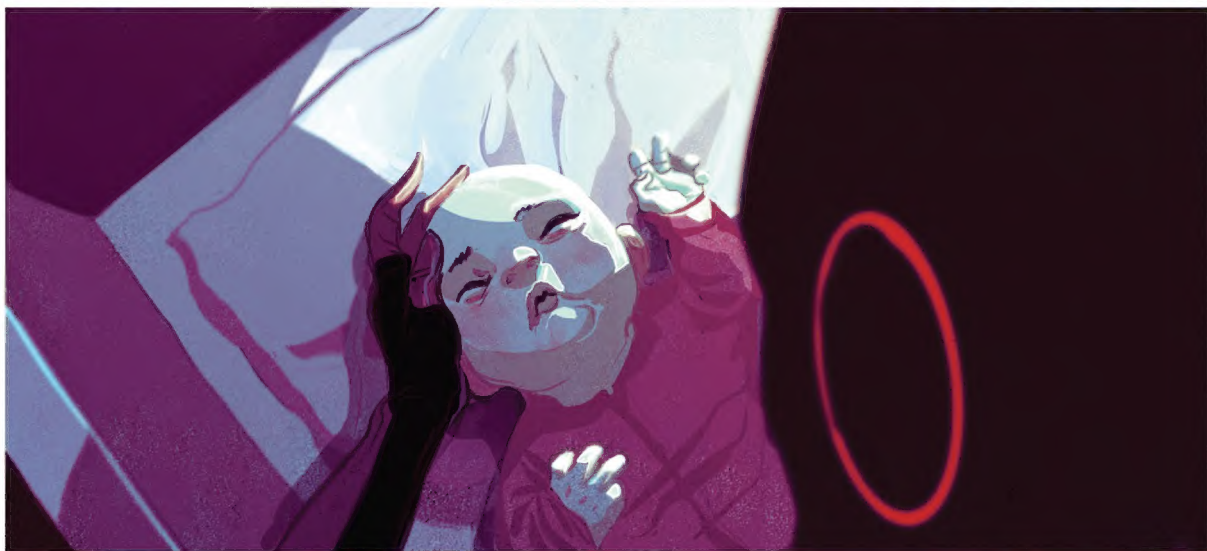
DON'T
WORRY.

YOU
WON'T FEEL
FOR LONG.





"...THE YEAR
3000!"



THE BABY'S BACK WHERE
HE STARTED. MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED.

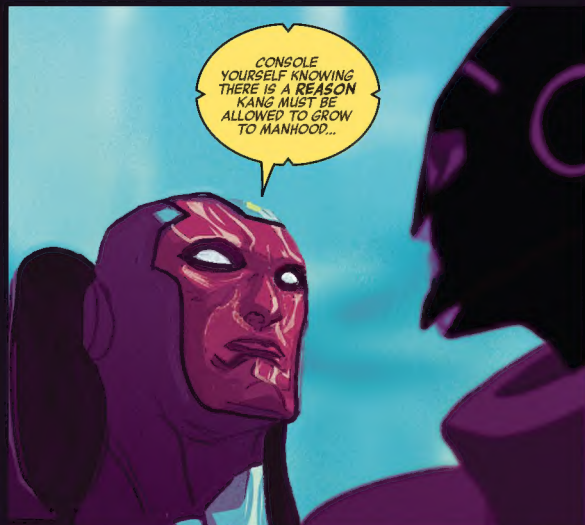
MIXED
FEELINGS,
A BIT.



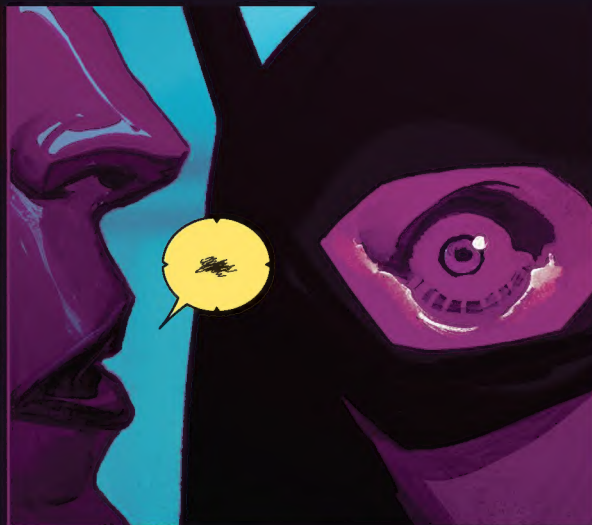
I DID
JUST RESTORE
THE TIMELINE OF AN
INTERCHRONAL
MADMAN--

WHICH,
WHEN DISRUPTED,
CREATES ITS OWN
PARTICULAR
CHAOS.

YOU HAVE
CORRECTED MY
SINGLE MOST
GRIEVOUS
ERROR.



CONSOLE YOURSELF KNOWING THERE IS A REASON KANG MUST BE ALLOWED TO GROW TO MANHOOD...



...



KID, YOU DID GREAT.

WE LITERALLY OWE OUR LIVES TO YOU.

WHATEVER.



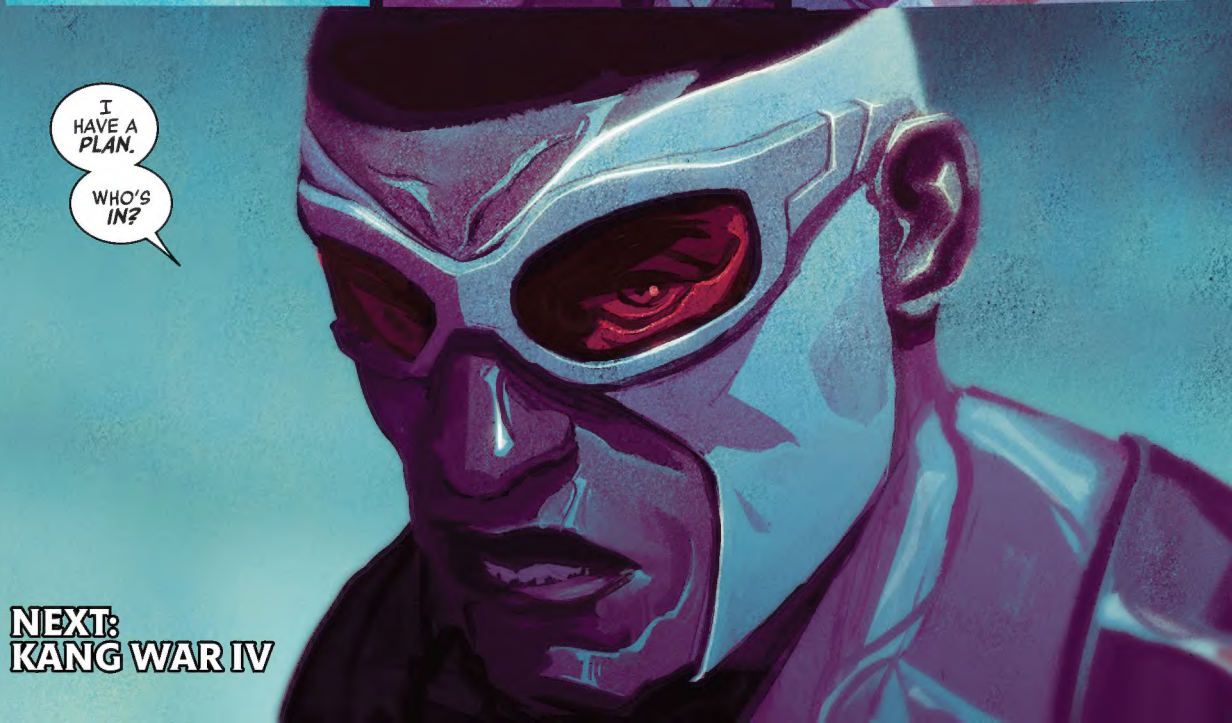
SO WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE US?

AS WE WERE, IN ETERNAL BATTLE WITH KANG, WHO CAN STRIKE AT US ANYWHERE, AT ANY MOMENT.

NOT NECESSARILY.



I'VE BEEN THINKING. WITHOUT DISRUPTING TIME, THERE MAY BE A WAY TO ELIMINATE KANG'S THREAT ONCE AND FOR ALL.



I HAVE A PLAN.

WHO'S IN?

NEXT:
KANG WAR IV

NEXT



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